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Letter dated 14 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi (see annex).

I would be grateful if you will have the present letter and the annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Semakula **Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

02-69925 (E) 201102

Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press statement issued by the Chairman of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, President Yoweri K. Museveni

1. The Chairman of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, Yoweri K. Museveni, today received the Facilitator of the Burundi Ceasefire talks, Deputy President Jacob Zuma of the Republic of South Africa in Kampala, Uganda.

2. The Facilitator updated the Chairman on the progress regarding the ceasefire negotiations involving the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Burundi armed groups, namely CNDD-FDD and Palipehutu-FNL.

3. The Chairman was encouraged to note that, since the start of the negotiations between the different Burundian parties to the conflict, the transitional Government and the CNDD-FDD of Pierre Nkurunziza were able to engage in actual ceasefire negotiations and had begun to make progress towards a ceasefire agreement. This signals a ray of hope that there is a real chance for a settlement among the warring parties so that peace can return to Burundi.

4. The Chairman, however, recalled the decision of the 18th Regional Summit, held in Dar-es-Salaam on 6 and 7 October 2002, by which the regional leaders gave the Burundian parties 30 more days within which to finalize a ceasefire agreement. The Summit was to reconvene immediately afterwards to review progress and decide on appropriate action to be taken to advance the peace process.

5. The Chairman noted that the deadline expired on 7 November 2002 without a ceasefire agreement in place. However, in view of the fact that the parties were making progress on the expiry date, and that the Facilitator did not have the mandate to extend the deadline, the Chairman has decided as follows:

I. To consult his colleagues, the regional leaders, at the 19th Regional Summit to be held within the next two weeks.

II. Requested the Facilitator to bring the Transitional Government in Burundi and the CNDD-FDD together within the two-week period to finalize all outstanding issues before the Summit.

III. Urged the transitional Government of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD to take advantage of this gesture.

Issued at Kampala on 12 November 2002.